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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend title 37, United States Code, to authorize, in connection with the permanent change of station of a member of the Armed Forces requiring relocation to another State, the reimbursement of the member for qualified relicensing costs incurred by the spouse of the member to secure a license or certification required by the State to which the member and spouse relocate, to encourage States to expedite license portability for military spouses, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. STEFANIK introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title 37, United States Code, to authorize, in connection with the permanent change of station of a member of the Armed Forces requiring relocation to another State, the reimbursement of the member for qualified relicensing costs incurred by the spouse of the member to secure a license or certification required by the State to which the member and spouse relocate, to encourage States to expedite license portability for military spouses, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Lift the Relocation
5 Burden from Military Spouses Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. REIMBURSEMENT FOR STATE LICENSURE AND CER-**
7 **TIFICATION COSTS OF A SPOUSE OF THE**
8 **ARMED FORCES ARISING FROM A PERMA-**
9 **NENT CHANGE OF STATION OF THE MEMBER**
10 **TO ANOTHER STATE.**

11 (a) REIMBURSEMENT AUTHORIZED.—Section 476 of
12 title 37, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
13 end the following new subsection:

14 “(p)(1) The Secretary concerned may reimburse a
15 member of the armed forces who is reassigned for a per-
16 manent change of station or permanent change of assign-
17 ment from a duty station in one State to a duty station
18 in another State to which the movement of the member’s
19 dependents is authorized at the expense of the United
20 States under this section for qualified relicensing costs of
21 the spouse of the member.

22 “(2) Reimbursement to a member under this sub-
23 section may not exceed \$500 for each change of station
24 or change of assignment.

1 “(3) In this subsection, the term ‘qualified relicensing
2 costs’ means costs, including exam and registration fees,
3 that—

4 “(A) are imposed by the State of the new duty
5 station to secure a license or certification to engage
6 in the same profession that the spouse engaged in
7 while in the State of the original duty station; and

8 “(B) are paid or incurred by the member or
9 spouse to secure the license or certification from the
10 State of the new duty station after the date on
11 which the orders directing the permanent change of
12 station or permanent change of assignment are
13 issued.”.

14 (b) EXPEDITED LICENSE PORTABILITY FOR MILI-
15 TARY SPOUSES.—The Secretary of Defense, and the Sec-
16 retary of Homeland Security with respect to the Coast
17 Guard, shall work with States to improve the portability
18 between States of a license, certification, or other grant
19 of permission held by the spouse of a member of the
20 Armed Forces to engage in a particular activity in a State.
21 The strategies to be recommended by the Secretaries to
22 improve license portability for military spouses shall in-
23 clude the following:

24 (1) Recognition by a State of a license issued
25 by another State and in good standing in that State.

1 (2) Issuance of a temporary license pending
2 completion of State-specific requirements.

3 (3) Provision of an expedited review process for
4 military spouses.

5 (c) REPORT ON EXTENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND
6 UNDEREMPLOYMENT OF MILITARY SPOUSES.—Not later
7 than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
8 the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees
9 on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Rep-
10 resentatives a report evaluating the extent to which
11 spouses of members of the Armed Forces are unemployed
12 and underemployed, in comparison to the general popu-
13 lation. The report shall include an estimate of the number
14 and percentage of unemployed and underemployed mili-
15 tary spouses, the primary reasons for their unemployment
16 or underemployment, and recommendations to increase
17 employment opportunities for military spouses.